

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXTENSIBLE DATA PROCESSING****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5                   A system and method of assembling an application for processing  
image or image-derived data is disclosed. The system includes a base operator  
configured to interface with one or more derivative operator classes, each operator  
class including an operator object for executing a processing function on the image or  
image-derived data. A base multiport node class is provided, which is configured to  
10   provide a multiport node for each operator object. The multiport nodes instantiates a  
pluggable operator for connecting the multiport nodes together at runtime according  
to user-defined parameters. The connection of multiport nodes implements the  
processing functions of the operator objects to execute the application.

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